SIRHAN DEFENSE CLOSES ITS CASE

Expert Insists View Is Valid Even if It Seems 'Absurd'

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LOS ANGELES, March 27—The defense in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan rested its case today and the prosecution prepared to call several psychologists and psychiatrists who are expected to have differing views of the defendant's mental condition.

The end of the defense's effort to save Sirhan from the gas chamber came after 29 witnesses had been heard. Many of them testified that the 25-year-old Jordanian immigrant was a schizophrenic paranoid psychotic incapable of premeditating the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The presentation of the prosecution's rebuttal witnesses is expected to take at least three days. Presumably, the lawyers will then deliver their summations and the case will go to the jury.

The conclusion of the defense's case came on the 49th day of the trial. The defense witnesses have been heard for the last 19 court days.

In the closing minutes of the defense argument, Grant B. Cooper, the chief attorney for Sirhan, read to the jury a transcript of a meeting in the chambers of Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker that took place several weeks ago after the defendant had staged an outburst in the courtroom.

Plea to Show Film Is Denied

The jury listened spell-bound as Mr. Cooper read the sections in which Sirhan threatened to change his plea to guilty if the court allowed his notebooks into evidence. The notebooks, which are filled with threats against Senator Kennedy, were later introduced into court.

After the defense had rested, the prosecution made a motion to show a film of Senator Kennedy's speech at the Ambassador Hotel shortly before he was killed. Judge Walker denied the request on the ground that it would be "inflammatory."

This morning, Dr. Bernard L. Diamond completed three days of testimony on Sirhan's mental state before and at the time of the shooting by acknowledging that his version of how Sirhan killed Senator Kennedy while in a self-induced trance might seem like an "incredible story."

'Absurd, Preposterous'

"I have stated that this is an absurd, preposterous story, unlikely and incredible, which is extraordinary and possibly in a unique case such as Sirhan's does raise the gravest problems of clinical proof and credibility."

Dr. Diamond, a psychiatrist who teaches at the University of California at Berkeley and who hypnotized Sirhan several times in his jail cell, said that Sirhan was a "preposterous person" and that his actions were "too illogical even for the theater of the absurd."

"When I first had personal contact with Sirhan," he continued, "I was prepared for the usual case of a paranoid fanatic who dreams of grand delusions and that is what has been found to be so.

"I was not, however, prepared for what I discovered, these stirring instances of correspondence courses, hypnosis, dissociate trances, mystical occultism of the Rosicrucian mind power and black magic and that this, in my psychological thinking, would have resulted in the death of Senator Kennedy that affected the destinies of the entire world."

Dr. Diamond told the court that he had investigated Sirhan's mind "by every psychiatric means within my power."

He said he had little expectation that he would be believed, but added that he thought it was "important that there exist this full record of how the assassination of Robert Kennedy came about."

The psychiatrist said that his story of how Sirhan went into a trance after seeing himself in the mirrors of an alcove in the Ambassador Hotel, and how the trance related to experiments in self-hypnosis before a mirror in his bedroom, was a "script that would never have been acceptable in a class B motion picture."

"And yet," he concluded, "these are, I think, the realities of the psychiatric findings."

Eldest Sirhan Brother Struck by Automobile

PASADENA, Calif., March 27 (UPI)—Saidallah Sirhan, 36 years old, brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, was rushed to a hospital in serious condition tonight after he was struck by a car.

Sirhan Sirhan is on trial for the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The driver of the car that hit Mr. Sirhan, the oldest of five brothers, was being questioned by the police. A spokesman said the accident "appears to be a normal pedestrian-car accident."

A spokesman at St. Luke's Hospital said Mr. Sirhan had received a head injury and a possible fracture of the right leg and was in "serious" condition.

Last July 7, Mr. Sirhan reported that he was shot at twice on a freeway as he drove toward Pasadena, where the Sirhan family lives.